all declined to come into this place thinking that in course of time they may even get the higher grade of Rs. 40—60. That was the secret. They get pension also. Though immediately this is better, in the long run the other would prove to be the better. That is the real state of affairs. There is no *Kumbhakonam* played here.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)* : Do the Government give to the Madras qualification the same importance as the Bombay qualification?

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur)* : In answer to sub-division (*e*), there are 4 applicants including Chamukutti Nayar who were in service till 1st Mithunam 1116. Out of the 4 only Chamukutti Nayar came up to accept the post?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government)* : All the 4 were available for appointment. But according to the rule of rotation followed by the Staff Selection Board, it was the turn of the Nayar community. Therefore, he was given.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: If any of the departmental people were willing to accept this post, this would not have gone to the Staff Selection Board. It is because of their refusal that it went to the Staff Selection Board.

INDEX NUMBERS REGARDING COST OF LIVING OF LABOURERS

62. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have in possession the cost of living index numbers in respect of the labouring classes in the following places: (1) Mattancheri, (2) Tatapuram (Ernakulam), (3) Trichur, (4) Amballur (Pudukad);

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, the numbers in each of the above places in the last month of 1939 and all the months of 1940 and 1941;

(*c*) whether the numbers do not indicate a higher cost of living for the labouring classes after the out-break of the war?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government)*:

(*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Do.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Is it not the practice of civilised Governments to take the index numbers regarding the cost of living?

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Mr. President: What is the hon'ble member's information?

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* It is.

Mr. President: You want an answer on a thing which you know.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that civilised Governments are doing like that?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: ലേബർ കമ്മീഷണക്ക് അതു ചെയ്യാനെല്ല വിഷമമാണെല്ലതു ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: ചെയ്യുവാൻ വിരോധമില്ല, പക്ഷെ ചെയ്യാറില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: അതു് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ഡ്യൂട്ടിയല്ലേ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: അത്യാവശ്യമായി ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു മാത്രം അദ്ദേഹം ചെയ്യുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നാണു് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ റിപ്പോർട്ടു്.

Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* May we know either from the Government or from the Hon'ble Member as to what is the meaning of "the cost of living index"?

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* If the Government members are not prepared to give an answer to this, I will give.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Index numbers regarding the cost of living.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is it not necessary that the Government through some department or other should take the index referred to above?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That will engage the attention of the Government. In fact, we wanted the Director of Industries and Commerce to take up this thing. But he said he wanted additional staff for the preparation of it for the whole State.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I only wanted the industrial and commercial towns of Cochin.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* For that purpose also he states that with the staff at his disposal it is not possible. That was the difficulty. Otherwise, he would have gladly taken it up.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: അതു് ലേബർ കമ്മീഷണർതന്നെ പ്രധാനമായി ചെയ്യേണ്ട ഒരു ഡ്യൂട്ടിയായിട്ടാണു് ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു് അതിലേക്കു പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു സ്റ്റാഫിന്റെ ആവശ്യമെന്താണെന്നു എനിക്കു് മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

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മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: സ്റ്റാഫ് ഇല്ലാതിരുന്നാൽ ഈ വക ജോലിക ളൊക്കെ ചെയ്യേണ്ടേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാരും ഇതു് ചെയ്യാറില്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. വി. റാഫേൽ: അദ്ദേഹവും ചെയ്യാറുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: യുദ്ധം കഴിയുന്നതുവരെയെങ്കിലും മാസംതോറും ഇതൊന്നു പബ്ലിഷ് ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു് ദയവുണ്ടാകുമോ?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know what is "the cost of living index" and how it is prepared? How is the calculation made?

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* The Joint Secretary promised to explain this thing.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I suppose this is not the time to give a lecture on all these things.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* I suppose this is the opportunity for the Hon'ble Members to know what exactly is the meaning of the question put.

Mr. President: Unless the Hon'ble Members say that they do not know, what is the necessity of explaining?

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* We are entirely in ignorance. We know what is meant by cost of living. But we do not know what is meant by cost of living index numbers.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* It is in brief to ascertain how the prices of the most essential articles of living are increasing and comparing day by day with reference to the wages earned by them. That is what is called living index.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Cost of provisions is one thing. That has absolutely no relationship to the labouring classes alone. That will have relationship to all classes.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* It is with reference to the wages earned by the labourers.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is it not necessary that proper statistics have to be collected before launching upon problems of labour uplift?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Statistics are very necessary and very useful.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will the Government consider this question and do it?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There is no difficulty to consider this question, but additional staff is wanted. That is the difficulty.

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Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* In Madras and Bombay, they keep separate departments for collecting statistics.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* We too may consider the question of creating a Statistical Department, if the hon'ble member thinks that a department should be created.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I do not want to make a separate department, till proper persons come here. Because there is no proper person here, there is no necessity for a separate department. Statistics are not forthcoming.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Even without proper persons statistics should be prepared. Is that the contention ?

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the Labour Commissioner or any officer can attend to this part of the work ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Our Director of Industries and Commerce is prepared to take up this question and do it, provided Government are prepared to give him additional staff. The point is, Government are just now in very great difficulties to give him the necessary staff. It is not because we are not in sympathy with this. We are in full sympathy. The difficulty is with regard to the staff.

CHITTUR BAZAAR ROAD—WIDENING OF

63. Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what is the width of the Bazaar road in Chittur;

(*b*) are Government aware that the said road is a narrow but very busy thoroughfare;

(*c*) are Government aware that the road passes right through the heart of the town and has shops and houses on both sides;

(*d*) are Government aware that the road is always congested with all kinds of vehicular traffic including motor bus traffic;

(*e*) is it not desirable in the interests of the public health of the town to stop the dust nuisance caused by the present condition of the road;

(*f*) was there not a proposal from the Chittur Municipality to shell-crete the Bazaar road;

(*g*) was the proposal rejected; if so, why?

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